as the Pass for entry and exit of persons, means of transport and commodities engaged in border trade.

Opening of labour/service market under WTO agreement

14. SHRI K. CHANDRAN PILLAI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that opening up of labour/service market and movement of people under WTO Agreement is far from being realized;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the EU countries refuse to recognize the educational qualifications from third world countries;

(c) if so, how this decision would affect the prospects of the aspiring Indian professionals;

(d) whether Government have taken up/proposed to take up for negotiations these anomalies in the WTO Forum; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) The General Agreement on Trade in Services establishes a multilateral framework of principles and rules for trade in services and for grant of market access and national treatment commitments on a sectoral basis by each country, including on temporary movement of natural persons for supply of services. In this context, the commitments taken by most countries during the Uruguay Round are linked to commercial presence and are subject to a number of limitations and administrative hurdles.

(b) and (c) No Sir. The European Community has, in its commitments, offered access for temporary movement of service providers in various categories subject to evaluation of the educational and professional qualifications of the persons seeking access.

(d) and (e) In keeping with the understanding that developed countries have taken very minimal commitments with regard to the movement of natural persons, India had submitted a proposal on

liberalisation of such movement at the WTO, identifying the barriers faced and suggesting strategies to achieve meaningful liberalisation. Furthermore, requests have also been made to important trading partners in individual service sectors seeking the removal of barriers to access. These aspects are being addressed in the context of the ongoing mandated negotiations for achieving progressive liberalisation of trade in services.

Trade with SAARC countries

†15. SHRI JAYANTILAL BAROT: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the percentage by which trade between India and SAARC countries has increased during 2000-2001 alongwith the details thereof?

(b) the SAARC country to which Indian export has been the maximum and the goods exported in maximum quantity indicating its value in terms of dollar during the last financial year;

(c) whether Government are considering any action plan for increasing trade with SAARC countries in future; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI SATYABRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) India's trade with SAARC (South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation) countries registered an increase of 27.76% in 2000-2001 compared to 1999-2000. India's total trade with SAARC countries was US $ 1791.97 million in 1999-2000 and US $ 2289.51 million in 2000-2001.

(b) Of all the countries of SAARC, maximum exports took place to Bangladesh. These were valued at US $ 1094.57 million in 2002-2003. Ten top exports to Bangladesh from India during 2002-2003 are given below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.